Norms for use of pesticides in soft drinks

†*191. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee constituted for setting norms for the use of pesticides in soft drinks has not taken any decision in this regard, so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken by the Committee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Setting norms for presence of pesticide in soft drinks comes under the purview of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Rules framed thereunder, which is administered by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. This Ministry has constituted a National Level Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Director General, Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) for recommending the maximum limits of pesticide residues in carbonated water. The report of the Expert Group is awaited.

Financial assistance to fishermen

*192. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of Indian fishing boats have been held up in Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government have any scheme to assist such fishing boat owners through financial assistance;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken to cover such Indian fishermen through an insurance scheme like the crop insurance, etc;

(e) the details of steps taken by the Central Government to help Indian fishing sector facing such obstacles;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.